

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 272154Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7111

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 5085

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS PORS ES

SUBJ: LEAFLET CONNECTED WITH DECEMBER 26 BOMBINGS

REF: (A) SAN SALVADOR 4977, (B) SS 5068; (C) SS 5047

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL (B), GOES CLAIMS TO HAVE FOUND LEAFLET AT SITE OF OMCOM HEADQUARTERS BOMBING IN SAN SALVADOR EARLY MORNING OF DECEMBER 26. ALTHOUGH TEXT OF LEAFLET HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED, GOVT HAS DISCLOSED THAT IT IS PURPORTEDLY FROM REVOLUTIONARY GROUP WHICH CALLS ITSELF THE "FUERZAS POPULARES DE LIBERACION (FPL) MARABUNDO MARTI" (FYI, MARABUNDO MARTI IS HERO OF LOCAL LEFTISTS FOR LEADERSHIP ROLE HE PLAYED IN 1932 CAMPESINO UPRISING. HE WAS EVENTUALLY EXECUTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND ACHIEVED MARTYR IMAGE). DECEMBER 27 GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES STATE ONLY THAT FPL LEAFLET CLAIMED BOMBINGS WERE ITS REPLY TO PRESIDENT MOLINA'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO THE NATION (REFTEL C).

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2. POL R&A HAS OBTAINED COPY OF LEAFLET, AND OF GOES INFORME DESCRIBING IN DETAIL INCIDENT AT OMCOM HEADQUARTERS, AND LISTING SIX OTHER BOMBINGS.

3. PAPER WHICH PRESENTS ITSELF AS COMUNICADO OF FPOL IS FOUR PAGE TYPEWRITTEN LEAFLET DATED DECEMBER 9 AND TITLED " COMMUNICATION ABOUT EVENTS AT THE VILLAGE LA CAYETANA" (SEE REFTEL A FOR EMBASSY REPORT). CONTRARY TO OFFICIAL STATEMENTS RELEASED TO PRESS, THE LEAFLET CONTAINS NO REFERENCE TO THE BOMBINGS THEMSELVES, NOR TO MOLINA'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE. THE FPL DESCRIPTION OF THE LA CAYETANA INCIDENT FOLLOWS, FOR THE MOST PART, THE OUTLINE IN REFTEL (A), I.E., THAT POLICE WENT TO VILLAGE ON NOVEMBER 26 TO ARREST VILLAGER; THE VILLAGERS FORCED THE PRISONER'S RELEASE; AND NATIONAL GUARD /POLICE RETURNED IN FORCE ON NOVEMBER 29 TO PUNISH THE CAMPESINOS FOR THEIR AUDACITY.

4. ONLY NEW OR DIFFERENT POINTS IN FLYER WOULD BE: (A) FPL CLAIMS ORIGINAL ARRESTEE IN LA CAYETANA WAS A MEMBER OF FPL; (B) THE ORIGINAL ARRESTING PARTY AND THE RETURNING FORCE WERE COMMANDED BY AN "ARMY MAJOR VARELA"; (C) BESIDES SIX CAMPESINOS KILLED, SECURITY FORCES SUFFERED THREE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED, AND, POSSIBLY, TWO BAILLIFS KILLED; AND (D) THAT VILLAGERS HAD SOME ARMS. LEAFLET ENDS BY CALLING FOR ARMED COMBAT AND REVOLUTIONARY WAR TO FIGHT THE "MILITARY TYRANY (WHICH IS) AT THE SERVICE OF THE VERY RICH CRIOLLS AND THE IMPERIALISTIC GRINGOS..."

5. COMMENT - ON THE ONE HAND IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE WHY THE GOES HAS NOT MADE LEAFLET PUBLIC, DESCRIBING AS IT DOES VERSION OF EVENTS AT LA CAYETANA WHICH ARE AT VARIANCE WITH ONLY OFFICIAL EXPLANATION. WITH EXCEPTION OF POINTS IN PARA 4 ABOVE, FPL RECITATION IS SIMILAR IN BASIC DETAILS TO VERSION THAT CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS ISSUED AND DENOUNCED. EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION TO COLLABORATE CLAIM OF SECURITY FORCES CASUALTIES TO EXTENT CLAIMED (DATT HAS INFORMATION THAT THERE WAS ONE GOVERNMENT CASUALTY), WHICH FPL LEAFLET USED TO ILLUSTRATE WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY OF VIRTUALLY UNARMED PEASANTS TO FIGHT "GOVERNMENT OPPRESSION", NOR THAT VILLAGER WAS FPL MEMBER. WE TEND TO DOUBT BOTH AS FPL ATTEMPTS TO INFLATE ITS IDENTIFICATION WITH INCIDENT. ON OTHER HAND, FACT THAT FPL PURPORTEDLY CLAIMS THAT ONE VILLAGE MEMBERS WAS FPL MEMBER ENGAGED IN REVOLUTIONARY WORK, AND THAT VILLAGERS DID FIGHT BACK WITH ARMS, CONFIDENTIAL

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INFLECTING SERIOUS CASUALTIES ON SECURITY FORCES, WOULD APPEAR TO TO BOLSTER GOVERNMENT'S VERSION OF ARMED PEASANTS IN REVOLT AGAINST AUTHORITY. IT IS CURIOUS THAT LEAFLET IS DATED FULL FIFTEEN DAYS BEFORE BOMBINGS, AND THAT NO MENTION IS MADE OF BOMBINGS IN FLYER ITSELF. IF THIS DOCUMENT WAS ACTUALLY DISCOVERED AT SITE OF OMCOM BOMBING, THE FACT THAT IS DISCUSSES AT LENGTH VERSION OF LA CAYETANA DAMAGING TO GOES WOULD LEND CREDENCE TO GOVERNMENT CLAIM THAT BOMBINGS WERE PRODUCT OF

LEFTIST RADICALS.
CAMPBELL

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